

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 50, 51, 54, 58-65, 68, 72-79 are currently pending. Claims 50, 64, 78 and 79 are independent. Claims 50, 58, 59, 60, 61, 64, 72-75, 78 and 79 are hereby amended. Claims 52, 53, 55-57, 66, 67 and 69-71 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed. No new matter has been introduced. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 50, 54-62, 64, 69-76, 78 and 79 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,292,846 to Hara et al.

Claim 50 recites, *inter alia*:

“...wherein said control enablement/disablement judging means judges enablement/disablement of control of said electronic equipment on the basis of the presence or absence of reservation rights of said electronic equipment determined by said reservation determining means, and when said reservation determining means determines the absence of reservation rights of said electronic equipment, said control enablement/disablement judging means additionally judges enablement/disablement of control of said electronic equipment on the

basis of the change frequency information stored by said change information storing means, wherein when the type information of said electronic equipment obtained by said type information obtaining means is recording and/or reproducing equipment, said control enablement/disablement judging means judges enablement/disablement of control of said electronic equipment on the basis of the change frequency stored by said change information storing means;

device controlling means for controlling electronic equipment connected with said network, wherein when control enablement is judged by said control enablement/disablement judging means, said device controlling means executes controlling said electronic equipment ;
and

alarm signal producing means for producing a warning signal when control disablement is judged by said control enablement/disablement judging means to display said warning signal.” (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Patent No. 6,292,846 to Hara et al. relates to a control apparatus and a VTR that are connected via an IEEE1394 interface bus. The control apparatus transmits a command to the VTR via the bus to designate a recording mode and a recording region of input information recorded on a magnetic tape loaded in the VTR. In response to this command, the VTR interprets the content of the received command and performs a recording operation in accordance with the interpreted content. The control apparatus transmits a recording time status command to an information transport apparatus to inquire a recording time of specific information recorded on the magnetic tape. The information transport apparatus notifies the control apparatus of the recording time. The control apparatus calculates an expected information transport end time based on the information transport start time and the recording time of the specific information notified from the information transport apparatus. Then, the control apparatus starts transmitting a transport state command from a time earlier a predetermined time than the expected information transport end time. (See Abstract)

Applicants submit that nothing has been found in U.S. Patent No. 6,292,846 to Hara et al. (hereinafter, merely “Hara”) that would disclose or suggest the above-identified features of claim 50. Therefore Applicants respectfully submit that claim 50 is patentable.

Independent claims 64, 78 and 79 are similar in scope and believed to be patentable for similar reasons.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 52, 53, 63, 66, 67 and 77 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,292,846 to Hara et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,678,464 to Kawai et al.

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Patent No. 6,678,464 to Kawai et al. relates to network for broadcast communication of digital information composed of image and audio. Prior to the broadcasting of the digital information of which copying is limited, there is discriminated whether a recording device is present on the network and the output of the digital information is controlled according to the result of discrimination. If the recording device is present, the digital interface or the recording function of the recording device is so controlled that the broadcast digital information cannot be recorded. The digital information of which copying is limited is broadcast on the network, there can be prevented the unlawful copying or erroneous recording of such digital information. (See Abstract)

Claims 52, 53, 63, 66, 67 and 77 are dependent upon one of the independent claims discussed above. Applicants have found nothing in U.S. Patent No. 6,678,464 to Kawai et al. that would provide the disclosure missing in Hara. Therefore, Applicants submit that

independent claims 50, 64, 78 and 79 are patentable and claims 52, 53, 63, 66, 67 and 77 are patentable for at least the same reasons.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

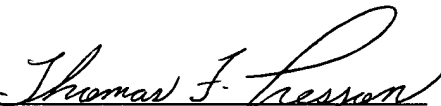
CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,
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